



HOUSE BILL 486: Replace EOC with National Assessment.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 27, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Elmore, Bell, K. Hall, Torbett	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The 2nd edition of HB 486 would require a nationally recognized assessment of high school achievement and college readiness to replace the high school end-of-course tests (EOCs). Additionally, it would eliminate the required administration of ACT WorkKeys for career and technical education students and replace it with a new career readiness indicator to be included in school performance grades.*

PART I. ELIMINATE EOC FOR GRADES 9-12

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(1), the State Board of Education must adopt tests for grades three through 12 that are required by federal law or as a condition of a federal grant. These assessments must be administered in the last 10 days of yearlong courses and in the last 5 days of semester courses. To meet these requirements for high school, the State Board adopted the EOCs for the courses of Math I, English II, and Biology.

Data from the EOCs are used to calculate a portion of the school performance scores and grades required by G.S. 115C-83.15, as well as to satisfy federal accountability requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4) requires the State Board to adopt a nationally norm-referenced college admissions test to make available to public schools to administer to all students in the eleventh grade unless the student has already taken a comparable test and scored at or above a level set by the State Board. Students can submit scores on this college admissions test to colleges as part of their application process. Additionally, data are used to calculate the college readiness component of the school performance grades.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 486 would replace the EOCs with a nationally recognized assessment of high school achievement or college readiness, such as the ACT or SAT. Instead of taking EOCs in Math I, English II, and Biology, student scores on the subject-specific portions of the nationally recognized assessment would be used to satisfy State and federal high school testing requirements.

Additionally, by October 1, 2021, the State Board would be required to identify which North Carolina content standards are aligned with certain nationally recognized assessments, such as the ACT, SAT, and various subject-specific SAT assessments in science. By November 1, 2021, the State Board would be required to contract with a vendor to evaluate the alignment between the identified standards and the various nationally recognized assessments. The State Board would be required to report on the results of the evaluation to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) by April 15, 2022.

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PART II. REPLACE ACT WORKKEYS WITH NEW CAREER READINESS INDICATOR

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-174.25 requires the State Board to plan for and require local school administrative units (LEAs) to make available the appropriate WorkKeys tests for all students who complete a concentration in career and technical education courses. WorkKeys is an assessment that measures foundational workplace skills. The assessment is made up of subtests related to Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents. Students can demonstrate mastery of skills at a Silver, Gold, or Platinum level. WorkKeys data are used to calculate the career readiness component of the school performance grades, under G.S. 115C-83.15.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 486 would eliminate the required administration of the WorkKeys assessment. Additionally, it would replace the career readiness indicator based on WorkKeys with a new career readiness indicator for school performance scores and grades. The new indicator would be met if a student meets all of the following criteria:

- Is enrolled in Career and Technical Education courses.
- Earns a credential of value aligned to the pathway.
- Completes a work-based learning experience for academic credit.

The State Board would be required to develop a plan to implement the new career readiness indicator and report on the plan to JLEOC by April 15, 2022.

PART III. CONFORMING CHANGES

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 486 would make various conforming changes throughout the General Statutes to reflect the changes made in Parts I and II. G.S. 116-11(10a), which requires the Department of Public Instruction to create a standardized transcript that includes certain student achievement data, would be modified to remove the requirement that it include end-of-course test scores. The change to transcript requirements would be effective July 1, 2023, and would apply to transcripts for students in eleventh grade in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, the bill would be effective when it becomes law and would apply to high school test administrations beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and school performance grades beginning with those based on data from the 2023-2024 school year.